

Serial No. 10/615,205

Amendment Dated May 12, 2004

Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2004

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A strut for propping open the door of an aircraft comprising:

an outer hollow tube having a telescoping inner member;

a sleeve mounted on said outer tube; and

locking means associated with said sleeve, said outer tube and said inner member for automatically locking said inner member when fully extended out of said outer tube and ~~maintain~~ maintaining said inner member in said ~~a~~ locked position when said sleeve is pulled away from said fully extended inner member and rotated until ~~said inner member is slightly moved away from said sleeve until it stops~~ locked in place thereby allowing the said inner member to be further extended for forcing the locking means radially outwardly, thereby unlocking said inner member and permitting said inner member to return to a stowed position telescoped inside of said outer tube.

2. (original) The strut of claim 1 wherein said locking means includes a spacer sleeve encircling said outer tube, said first mentioned sleeve mounted over said spacer sleeve, and having an inner enlarged portion with a spring abutting at one end against said spacer sleeve and at the other end against said enlarged portion, said outer tube having an enlarged diameter portion with a plurality of spaced slots therethrough, a spring-biased puck being mounted in each of said slots returned therein by said first mentioned sleeve, and a spring-biased ball mounted in each of said pucks.

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3. (original) The strut of claim 2 including a spring-biased flange reciprocally mounted on said inner member adapted to abut against said first mentioned sleeve.

4. (original) The strut of claim 3 including a V-shaped slot cut out of said spacer sleeve having a pin mounted on said first mentioned sleeve disposed within said slot, the position of said pin within said slot coinciding with the position of said pucks.

5. (original) The strut of claim 4 including indicia on said first mentioned sleeve coinciding with said slot.

6. (currently amended) A strut for propping open the radome door of an aircraft comprising:

an outer hollow tube connected at one end to said aircraft having a telescoping inner member connected at one end to said door;

a sleeve mounted on the said outer tube; and

locking means associated with said sleeve, said outer tube and said inner member for automatically locking said inner member when fully extended out of said outer tube and maintaining said inner member in ~~said~~ a locked position when sleeve is pulled away from said fully extended inner member and rotated until said inner member is moved away from said sleeve thereby unlocking said inner member and permitting said inner member to return to a stowed position telescoped inside of said outer tube.

7. (original) The strut of claim 6 wherein said locking means includes a spacer sleeve encircling said outer tube, said first mentioned sleeve mounted over said spacer sleeve and having an inner enlarged portion with a spring abutting at one end against said spacer sleeve and at the other end against said enlarged portion, said outer tube having an enlarged diameter

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portion with a plurality of spaced slots therethrough, a spring-biased puck being mounted in each of said slots returned therein by said biased first mentioned sleeve, and a spring-biased ball mounted in each of said pucks.

8. (original) The strut of claim 7 including a spring-biased flange reciprocally mounted on said inner member adapted to abut against said first mentioned sleeve.

9. (original) The strut of claim 8 including a V-shaped slot cut out of said spacer sleeve having a pin mounted on said first mentioned sleeve disposed within said slot, the position of said pin within said slot coinciding with the position of said pucks.

10. (original) The strut of claim 9 including indicia on said first mentioned sleeve coinciding with said slot.

11. (original) The strut of claim 9 wherein a pair of said struts are provided connected to said door at spaced locations.